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Letter dated 22 October 2018 from the Permanent Representative of the Sudan to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith the decisions of the ordinary meeting of the Joint Political and Security Mechanism between the Sudan and the Republic of South Sudan, held in Juba on 12 October 2018 (see annex).

I should be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Omer Dahab Fadl **Mohamed**
Permanent Representative

18-17596 (E) 251018

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Annex to the letter dated 22 October 2018 from the Permanent Representative of the Sudan to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

JOINT POLITICAL AND SECURITY MECHANISM
Between the Republic of South Sudan and the Republic of the Sudan

ORDINARY MEETING
Friday, October 12, 2018
JUBA – SOUTH SUDAN

We the under-signed, acting on behalf of the Co-Chairs of the Joint Political and Security Mechanism (JPSM) of the Republic of South Sudan and the Republic of the Sudan;

Acting pursuant to the Decision of the Extraordinary JPSM Meeting of 2 September 2018 held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia;

Recommitting ourselves and our sisterly nations to the principles of good neighbourliness, national sovereignty and territorial integrity;

Reiterating our full and unwavering commitment to the full implementation of the Agreement on Security Arrangements entered into force between our two countries on 27 September 2012 in the Ethiopian capital Addis Ababa;

Motivated by the recent improvement in the relations between our two sisterly countries as unprecedentedly exemplified by our leaders, H.E. President Omar Hassan El Bashir of the Sudan and H.E. President Salva Kiir Mayardit of South Sudan;

Regretful of the delay and deadlock hitherto witnessed in resuming the conduct of the regular JPSM, JSC and 14-Mile Area Ad Hoc Committee meetings;

Grateful, nonetheless, for the continuous support of the African Union High Level Implementation Panel (AUHIP) and the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA);

Encouraged by the renewed mutual aspiration to regularly conduct the meetings of the Joint Political and Security Mechanism; and

Grateful for the new positive spirit cultivated between the Heads of State of the two countries as shown in the recent efforts exerted in the quest for a lasting peace in South Sudan;

Furthermore grateful for the presence during the meeting of representatives from the Office of the United Nations Special Representative for Sudan and South Sudan and from UNISFA.

Met here for an ordinary meeting in Juba, this 12th day of October 2018, and resolved the following:

1. ***On the United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 2412 (2018) Benchmark 1:***

(i) The Meeting welcomes the decision by the South Sudanese Government of inviting Governors and Local Leaders of the concerned border areas to Juba for sensitization on the Security Arrangements Agreement of 27 September 2012, and the operationalization of the Safe Demilitarised Buffer Zone (SDBZ) and the opening of border crossing corridors.

(ii) The South Sudan Government pledges to that the High-Level Team to commence its task by 22 October 2018 as stipulated in the JPSM Decisions of 24 September 2018. The Meeting tasks the above team to partake in the sensitization of the local population along the SDBZ to ensure the full implementation of the agreement to allow UNISFA to move freely in the SDBZ and initiate the establishment of the team sites and the opening of the border crossing corridors.

2. **On UNSCR 2412 (2018) Benchmark 2:**

(i) As benchmark 2 (on the establishment of four Team Sites) is dependent upon the implementation of benchmark 1, the Meeting recommends that the High-Level Team identified above conducts the sensitization of the local communities to enable the establishment of the Team Sites at Safaha, Kiir-Adim and Sumayha/Warayien.

(ii) The meeting directs the Joint Security Committee (JSC) in collaboration with UNISFA to investigate the situation on the ground in Wunkur (Abu-Qussa) and report before the next JPSM session.

3. **On UNSCR 2412 (2018) Benchmark 3:**

(i) The Meeting notes that benchmark 3 (on the conduct of two JPSM meetings) has already been accomplished. It notes the extraordinary session of 24 September and this very one as the two meetings cited in the UN Security Council Resolution.

(ii) On the Redeployment of Forces outside the SDBZ, the Meeting confirmed the willingness and readiness of the Parties to complete withdrawal from the four identified locations as per the Decisions of the JPSM Extraordinary Meeting of 24 September 2018 by the deadline of mid-November.

4. ***On*** **UNSCR 24 (2018)** ***Benchmark 4*****:**

(i) To fully implement benchmark 4, the Meeting emphasizes that the community sensitization process as contained in benchmarks 1 and 2 should be completed. Nonetheless, it notes that the 10 border crossing corridors are ready and awaiting the community sensitization process and the engagement of the African Union Border Programme Technical Team (AUBP-TT) to finish.

(ii) Nonetheless, the full operationalisation of the 10 border crossing corridors is directly related to the ability of UNISFA and the Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism (JBVMM) to achieve their full operational capabilities.

5. **On UNSCR 2412 (2018) Benchmark 5:**

On benchmark 5, the Parties agreed to open the identified river corridor of Kosti-Renk. The JPSM asked the two Governments to form a joint committee to prepare for the immediate opening of the corridors. It identified the Tolodi-Tonga road as the second corridor pending the establishment of team sites.

6. **On UNSCR 2412 (2018) Benchmark 6:**

The Meeting requests the AUHIP to accelerate the work of the Joint Border Commission (JBC) and Joint Demarcation Committee (JDC) within the shortest time possible as contained in the Decisions of the Extraordinary JPSM Meeting of 24 September 2018.

7. On the Date for the Next Meeting

The JPSM decides to hold the next round of the ordinary meeting on Monday, 3 December 2018 in Khartoum.

Agreed between and signed by:

Lt Gen Johson Juma Okot
For and on behalf of the Minister of Defence and Veterans' Affairs
Republic of South Sudan
JPSM Co-Chair

Lt Gen (psc) Mustafa Mohammed Mustafa
For and on behalf of the Minister of Defence
Republic of the Sudan
JPSM Co-Chair